

Eligibility for election clerk or judge
(HB 543 by Garcia/Tejeda)

DIGEST: HB 543 would have required election clerks in general elections to be registered voters of the precincts in which they served, unless the appointing authority filed a sworn affidavit stating that after a reasonable and diligent search, no person could or would serve as a voting clerk. The proposed eligibility requirement for clerks also would have applied to emergency appointments of election judges.

GOVERNOR'S
REASON
FOR VETO:

The governor said the current law was working well and there is no need for further restrictions on the appointment of election judges and clerks.

AUTHOR'S
VIEW:

Rep. Orlando Garcia said the governor took a partisan approach to a bill that simply applied the existing residency requirement for presiding judges to clerks as well, as the law did before 1977. The precinct residency requirement is necessary to prevent the type of abuses that took place in San Antonio during the last general election. Rep. Garcia said the Republican Party infiltrated Hispanic precincts with non-resident clerks to intimidate voters and obstruct the election.

NOTES:

The House Research Organization analysis of HB 543 appeared in the May 20, 1987 Daily Floor Report.